

# SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress  
2nd Session

Vote No. 41

March 19, 1996, 3:46 p.m.  
Page S-2283 Temp. Record

## OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS/LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance)

**SUBJECT:**        **Balanced Budget Downpayment Act, II . . . H.R. 3019. Wellstone amendment No. 3520 to the Hatfield modified substitute amendment No. 3466.**

### ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 77-23

**SYNOPSIS:**        As introduced, H.R. 3019, the Balanced Budget Downpayment Act, II, will make rescissions and will provide appropriations for fiscal year 1996 for the five regular appropriations bills that have not yet been signed into law (three of those bills have been vetoed, one has been stalled by a Senate Democratic filibuster on its conference report, and one has been stalled by a Senate Democratic filibuster against even beginning its consideration).

The Hatfield modified substitute amendment contains the text of S. 1594, as reported, which is the Senate's version of the bill. The amendment would increase spending by \$1.2 billion over the House-passed amount, and would create a \$4.8 billion contingency fund to accommodate part of the additional \$8 billion in spending requested by President Clinton (funds would not be released until a budget agreement between the President and Congress was enacted; President Clinton did not ask for or identify any means of paying for his increased spending proposals). As amended, the contingency fund was reduced (see vote Nos. 27 and 37).

**The Wellstone amendment** would express the sense of the Senate that, "the President should release immediately a substantial portion of available emergency funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for fiscal year (FY) 1996, to help meet continuing urgent needs for home heating assistance during this unusually cold winter," and "not less than the \$1 billion in regular advance-appropriated LIHEAP funding for next winter provided for in this bill should be retained in a House-Senate conference on this measure."

**Those favoring** the amendment contended:

The Wellstone amendment would express the sense of the Senate on the LIHEAP program. It would encourage the President to use existing authority he has to increase spending on the program this year, and it would put the Senate on record as strongly favoring

(See other side)

YEAS (77)				NAYS (23)		NOT VOTING (0)	
Republican (30 or 57%)		Democrats (47 or 100%)		Republicans (23 or 43%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (0)	Democrats (0)
Abraham	Hatch	Akaka	Inouye	Ashcroft			
Bennett	Hatfield	Baucus	Johnston	Brown			
Bond	Hutchison	Biden	Kennedy	Cochran			
Burns	Jeffords	Bingaman	Kerrey	Coverdell			
Campbell	Lugar	Boxer	Kerry	Craig			
Chafee	Pressler	Bradley	Kohl	Faircloth			
Coats	Roth	Breaux	Lautenberg	Gorton			
Cohen	Santorum	Bryan	Leahy	Gramm			
D'Amato	Simpson	Bumpers	Levin	Grams			
DeWine	Smith	Byrd	Lieberman	Helms			
Dole	Snowe	Conrad	Mikulski	Inhofe			
Domenici	Specter	Daschle	Moseley-Braun	Kassebaum			
Frist	Stevens	Dodd	Moynihan	Kempthorne			
Grassley	Thurmond	Dorgan	Murray	Kyl			
Gregg	Warner	Exon	Nunn	Lott			
		Feingold	Pell	Mack			
		Feinstein	Pryor	McCain			
		Ford	Reid	McConnell			
		Glenn	Robb	Murkowski			
		Graham	Rockefeller	Nickles			
		Harkin	Sarbanes	Shelby			
		Heflin	Simon	Thomas			
		Hollings	Wellstone	Thompson			
			Wyden				

#### EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

#### SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

a \$1-billion funding level for this program for FY 1997. Approximately 6 million poor people rely on the LIHEAP program to meet their heating and air conditioning needs. Most of the money, 90 percent, is spent on heating. Many LIHEAP recipients are elderly Americans who live on very low fixed incomes. Without LIHEAP assistance, those recipients are given the cruel choice of "heat or eat." The program has traditionally operated on advance appropriations, which has given the States (the States administer the program) time to plan ahead on how they are going to serve their needy citizens with the available funding. The danger of not using advance appropriations is shown by this year's experience--we have yet to enact a labor-health and human services appropriations bill, on which LIHEAP funding is provided, and winter is nearly over. The \$900 million appropriated in fiscal year 1995 for this fiscal year has now all been spent. However, even though it is March, winter is not yet over in many of the colder weather States. More aid is still needed. It is on this basis that the Wellstone amendment would encourage the President to use his existing emergency authority to increase spending on LIHEAP by up to \$300 million this year. The second part of the Wellstone amendment is necessary because the House wants to eliminate the program. Senators had to fight tooth-and-nail to gain \$900 million in funding for FY 1996, which was a decrease of \$400 million, and we expect an even tougher fight this year to retain the Senate's preferred funding level of \$1 billion. By going on record as opposing any compromise on this issue, Senators can strengthen their hand before they go to conference on this bill. We trust a majority of our colleagues will agree that both elements of the Wellstone amendment are praiseworthy, and that they will join us in passing this amendment.

**Those opposing** the amendment contended:

We are absolutely disgusted with the Senate's performance during the consideration of this bill. We have added billions of dollars of new spending for this year already, and now it appears as though a majority of our colleagues are chomping at the bit to begin spending more money next year as well. For our part, we have not forgotten the mandate of the 1994 elections. Though we may be in the minority, we will not abandon the voters who elected us to be fiscally responsible; we will not vote in favor of the Wellstone amendment.